

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clinic with a Heart Operations Group receives Governor's Points of Light award for volunteer service

Lincoln, Neb. – Once a month on Monday and every Tuesday and Thursday, volunteers converge about Clinic with a Heart and provide health care to patients without insurance, or who are underinsured. Services provided include medical, dental, physical therapy, mental health, hearing, vision and chiropractic. Each night of service a mission team is serving who represents a faith-community, hospital or teaching institution. The mission teams are led by clinical directors and team leaders. The all-volunteer Clinic Operations Group (COG) was recognized for their volunteer service today, receiving the Governor's Points of Light group award from Governor Dave Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem at a ceremony at the State Capitol in Lincoln.

The Clinic Operations Group coordinates staffing the clinic with volunteers, scheduling, communicating and assuring the clinic is operated to a standard in keeping with the clinic's values of hospitality, dignity and grace. Group leaders coordinate up to 65 volunteers each month. Between July of 2011 and June of 2012, the Clinical Operations Group coordinated the following:

- 3,428 visits to the clinic for 3,005 patients (33% more visits than the prior twelve months). 88% of those patients did not have insurance, 12% were homeless and 60% were unemployed. 71% were from households with incomes of less than \$16,000.
- 41% of patients said that, were it not for Clinic with a Heart, they would have had to seek care in the emergency room. A conservative estimate is that this represents a savings in uncompensated emergency room visits of \$1,196,000.
- 612 volunteers donated 10,387 hours of service!

Clinic with a Heart was started by a team from St. Mark's United Methodist Church in 2003. Working with other organizations, the clinic now has teams from eleven different organizations. The Clinical Operations Group also collaborates with organizations that help care for patients including; Advanced Medical Imaging, the Lancaster County Medical Society, the Lancaster County Health Department and the Health Hub.

The service provided by the volunteer group is done out of a strong sense of service – the impact on the community has been great. Patients are able to find care they need in an appropriate setting. And, the community benefits by having healthier citizens and a cost savings in uncompensated care.

The group leaders have helped the clinic grow in the number of patients that can be seen, the number of services provided, and the number of volunteers who give their time. Today, 684 volunteers serve at Clinic with a Heart.

The Governor's Points of Light awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. To nominate a youth, adult or group for a Governor's Points of Light Award who have made a difference through volunteerism and community service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov. The next nomination deadline is September 15, 2013.

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